# WILLIAM A. DARLING.

The Model Appraiser at the Port of New York.

How the Customs Revenue Is Assessed.

# CORRUPTION, FRAUD AND INCOMPETENCY.

# The Hero of the Third Avenue Savings Bank Asked to Step Down and Out.

A report to the effect that William A. Darling had retigned the position of Appraiser at the port of New fork was widely circulated yesterday, and was as widely credited by those who know a good deal about the secret workings of the Treasury Department and the Custom House at this port.

Mr. Darling denied the report yesterday; but from reliable information obtained by a Henath reporter last evening there is no question that the Appraiser will be compelled to resign in less than a week. A special agent of the Treasury has been several weeks engaged in invest gating Darling's disgraceful connection with the Third Avenue Savings Bank, and last Saturday forwarded his report to Washington. Immediately on its receipt by the Secretary of the Treasury Mr. Darling's resignation was requested. Darling went to Washington and saw Mr. Bristow, but those best informed in regard to the matter say that the Secretary was inexprable, and insisted upon the Appraiser's vacating his

While the Third Avenue Savings Bank affair was soubtless the immediate cause of the Secretary's action, the same result would unquestionably have been reached had that case never been heard of, for it is a well known fact that Mr. Bristow has for a long time been much dissatisfied with the present management of the Appraiser's Department.

THE APPRAISER'S DEPARTMENT.

Of course no one supposes for a moment that the stupendous frauds and the disgraceful system of bribery and corruption of all kinds now being unearthed at Washington are confined to Cabinet officials or the various departments at the capital. That they extend to the Appraiser's Department at this port will be This department is one of the most important if indeed not the most important of the four subdivisions of the machinery for the collection of the government imposts at this port. It is a fact more or less notorious among merchants that this branch of the Custom House is rotten throughout, Abuses of every kind have crept into the department little by little, month after month, until at last the place has become a disgrace even to the present admin-

Of course it is impossible to conduct so vast a concern as is the Appraiser's Department in such a manner that fraud, peculation and other abuses can be entirely prevented, but the office can and has been so administered in the past that merchants were not continually swindied and robbed by the employes of the government; that bribe taking was not countenanced on every hand; that personal friends and relations of the Appraiser were not thrust into every position of importance in examiners, experts and other officials were not kicked out of office on trumped-up charges to make room for relatives and favorites who knew nothing of the needs or workings of the service; that thieves and bribe takers were not appointed to positions and retained in

Some ten or twelve days ago, Special Agent Jaynes, of the Treasury Department, and General Butler came on to New York with instructions from the Secretary of the Treasury to investigate certain alleged irregu-

eral years. He was twice in Congress, and he has been President of the Third Avenue Railroad Company, President of the Murray Hill Bank, Secretary of the Third Avenue Savings Bank, and finally Appraiser at the Port of New York. He has been described as an irritable, fussy, intriguing politician, having an average quantity of brains, but no particular ability. He evidently entertains a fondness for his relatives, near or distant, and always tries to make the government or the instia livelihood. His leading characteristic, however, has been to hold public office. He usually monopolizes four or five positions, but at present he holds but three. In regard to his position as Appraiser at this port constant complaints are being made by merchants who have to do business with him. As one gentleman expressed it yesterday, Mr. Darling spends so much time in savings banks and primary meetings that it is with the utmost difficulty that merchants can see him at all. Since his connection with the Third Avenue Bank business the entire force of the department has lost that degree of respect it should entertain for a chief; therefore demoralization is the result.

WHO STOLE THE HAM? Isaac O. Hunt was one of the Board of Appraisers tome time ago. Isaac was known to have a marked partiality for hams, and, as a number of real nice sugar cured Westphalia hams were then constantly passing through the Appraisers' Department, the temptation was too great for Isaac, and he was detected in carrying one of the hams away. In those days it was customary to frown upon dishonesty; so Mr. Hunt was frowned upon, and thrown out of a situation. But he resolved to lead an honest life and, therefore, went into politics. In a short time he beand, as his residence and that of the present Appraiser are in close contiguity, his services were indispensable to the political aspirations of Mr. Darling. these circumstances Isaac had to have a place in the Custom House, from which he had once been ignominiously expelled, and he got it and still holds it.

Nowadays it appears that in the Appraisers' Department dishonesty is not always considered good grounds for removal. For a time it was customary for Mr. Darling, when he wished to make room for a son, a Darling, when he wished to make room for a son, a brother-in-law, a nephew, a cousin, a lather-in-law or any other favorite, to send some gentleman in the department a perfumed note stating that, owing to the net that the United States District Attorney had proferred charges against him, his position would at once be considered vacant. For a time this system of manipulating the guillotine worked admirably; for, as a rule, all were conscious of being so far corrupt that they knew charges by the District Attorney were not only possible but were probable; therefore they quietly submitted. Mr. Darling was constantly looking shout for vacanenes to create, until the whole family of Darling held office and there were no further reasons for removals. At the present moment this remarkable family is said to draw no less a sum than \$42,000 per aunum. Is it any wonder, then, that Mr. Darling did not have to go outside his own office-holding family to procure bail in the Third Avonue Savings Bank case?

While the official decapitation was in progress Mr. Darling happened to dismiss some three or four honest men, who knew that the District Attorney could not make charges against them. After their removal they wrote a letter to Mr. Bliss asking what were the charges preferred against them. As they had anticipated, Mr. Bliss replied that he never had made nor received any charges, and asserted that Mr. Darling sould no longer use him as a cat's-paw in that way.

About a year ago an invoice of gloves and gauntlets was received at the appraisers' stores. The goods were put on the floor for examination. While the cases were open an examiner from the Damage Bureau parsed through the room, shi, seeing the gloves, took a fancy to one of the packages. While unbody was looking that way, as he supposed, the examiner deliberately carried off the coveted package. One of the raployés about the premises saw the thest and reported the insister to Mr. Derling. A man was sent to the palleged third, and soon returned with the missing he brother-in-law, a nephew, a cousin, a father-in-law or

gloves. A few months later the man who reported the fact of the theft to the Appraiser was removed, but the person who stole the gloves still holds office and rejoices in an increase of his yearly galary.

No sconer had Mr. Darling established himself well in office than he began his search for places for his relatives. One of his first appointments was that of a brother-in-law named Lee, a brother of the man put into the Third Avenue Bank and who developed into a defaulter to the amount of from \$70,000 to \$80,000 in least than three mouths. Mr. Lee was appointed an examiner in the tenth division, through which passes all works of art, such as statuary, paintings, chromos and steel engravings. Before Mr. Lee entered the office the business of examining, appraising and bassing these articles devolved upon Mr. D. C. Sturges, a gentleman who has been in the department many years, growing up with the business and making his duty a life study. Mr. Sturges is universally recognized to be the only expert in this branch of the service now in the Custom House. Lee's only qualification for the position was that he had kept a small stationery store on Third avenue. He did not know a Murillo from a Chinese tea sizu. As an evidence of his utter incompetency it is only necessary to cite one case out of hundreds which recently occurred. A large invoice of old Spanish paintings, eagravings and enromes arrived here and were sent to the Apdence of his utter incompanies, cite one case out of hundreds which recently occurred. A large invoice of old Spanish paintings, engravings and chromos arrived here and were sent to the Appraisors' Department for examination and appraisement. Lee had the packages opened, took up some of the paintings, viewed them in various lights and positions, looked exceedingly wise and appraised the whole lot at \$5 a piece. The articles were removed to an acction room, where they were rapidly and readily sold at prices ranging from \$10 to \$200. Lee's figures were more than 700 per cent leas than their real value.

Lee's figures were more than the purities real value.

Constant complaints were made to Mr. Darling for a long time in regard to Lee's incompetency and insubordination in the division to which he had been assigned; but Mr. Darling continued his brother-in-law modice, although it has always been considered that a complaint by an assistant appraiser in regard to any man under him was equivalent to that man's instant

At the head of the sik divison Mr. Darling has At the head of the Sik division Mr. Darling has placed his son's father-in-law, F. W. Gibson. Of course, the necessity of placing in charge of a department through which there yearly passes many millions of dollars' worth of goods a man who is an expert and in every way competent to supervise the business in an intelligent manner is recognized. Now, Mr. Gibson enjoys the reputation of being an honest man, and one who intends to do as well as he can, but he is not and never was an expert on silk fabrics. The only expert on these articles now in the Appraiser's office is a gen-

speaks French fluently, and would reflect credit upon the service.

As for the Appraiser himself, what with the Murray Hill Bank and the Third Avenue Bank and his various law suits, he never reaches the Appraiser's stores before twelve o'clock, and rarely before one, and never stays later than half-past two or three. He drives down to the corner of West Broadway and Canal street, where he leaves his carriage, and then proceeds on foot to the office, lest his carriage should get scratched or jammed in the lower streets. His business at the Appraiser's stores is usually delegated to his "Man Friday," a person known as Larry Harney. Mr. Harney has long been the bosom companion of Mr. Darling, whose fondness for him seems a little strange to the unimitiated. Mr. Darling took Harney into the department with him, atthough some say the affair was reversed and Harney took Darling in. At all events, Harney was provided with a position commensurate with his peculiar abilities and intelligence; he was made a messenger.

was reversed and Harney took Darling in. At all events, Harney was provided with a position commensurate with his peculiar abilities and intelligence; he was made a messenger." To relieve his wounded pride Mr. Darling changed the official title of Harney's position to that of "chief clerk in charge of the stationery." After a time the various attaches of the department became in doubt as to who was the Appraiser and who was the chief clerk in charge of the stationery; but the matter was finally settled in favor of Harney, for he had but to wink or nod and Mr. Darling responded. If Mr. Harney says remove such or such a man that man will lose his official head before two suns have set, or, if Mr. Harney says appoint such or such a man the man suddenly finds himself installed in office. Of course Harney would not attempt to persunde Mr. Darling to remove any of his relatives. Whenever the subordinates are to be assessed for electioneering or other purposes Harney calls them together, each class by themselves, and announces the amount of the tax. Forthwith the money is produced and handed over to Harney, who hands it over to Darling. None dare refuse, for Harney never forgets a delinquent.

No man has ever been three hours about the Appraisers' Department without having heard of the "Personal Effect Bureau, or the Seat of Corruption." Until recently it was presided over by Channoey Murry. Mr. Murry is not there now; he likes Boston better. A great many comparatively small but valuable packages reach this port by steamer without having any invoice and are entered at the Custom House, and an appraisement order taken out for them. Across this order the broker writes "Personal effects," and if charity covers a mulittude of sins these two words cover an equal amount of fraud and decent. It is alleged, and not without some color of authority, that many thousands of dollars' worth of dutiable merchandise finds its way through this bureau without the povernment over getting a cent's worth of duty. The broker can "see" the

of the Treasury to investigate certain alleged irregularities, if nothing worse, in the Appraiser's Department. A hurried investigation was made and the result reported to Mr. Bristow, who, but for the inquiry at the time going on in relation to Mr. Darling's consection with the Third Avenue Savings Bank, would, it is said, have taken immediate action in the matter. It is now understood that Mr. Bristow is fully aware of the rotten condition of the Appraiser's Department and will send on three or four special agents to thoroughy overhaul the whole concern.

WILLIAM A. DARLING.

General George W. Paimer was removed from the head of the Appraiser's Department in 1871 and William A. Darling was appointed as his successor by President Grant and confirmed by the Senate. Mr. Darling has been before the public in various positions for sev-

Wall street the gentleman who imported the watches. "How did you like those watches?" asked the importer.

"What watches have you reference to?" replied the examiner.

"Why, those you passed a day or two ago."

"That's singular. I got a lot of fine gold watches through Davis, Turner & Co., the European Express people, and they were passed at the Custom House. I have them at my store now. They came through your department, didn't they?"

"No, sir, they did not go through my department. I will look into this affair."

And he did.

Returning to the Appraisers' Department the examiner made inquiry for some time, but without meeting with any satisfactory result. At last he went to the Personal Effects Bureau and asked two or three parties about the matter Clark acknowledged he had passed the package. It was finally arranged that he should go to Davis, Turner & Co. and get them to pay the duties. He did so and the duties were paid, and the examiner who had ferreted out the fraud was requested to sign the necessary papers, that they might be filed. This he refused to do, stating that he had not seen the goods and had no record of the package ever having come under his supervision. Strenuous efforts were made to hush the thing up, but it intally leaked out and the examiner was subsequently dismissed the service, and the man who passed the watches was advanced in positiou and salary, and still holds office. It may be well to mention that immediately after this transaction a great many appraisement orders of Davis, Turner & Co. passed through the second division, while previous to it they were seldom seen there. Mr. Murry, who was at this time head of the Personal Effects Bureau, resigned shortly after this watch case was exposed.

"Sannog" the multiplicity of abuses existing in the Appraisers' Department more are more flagrant and, at the same time, more transparent than the one of "seeing" or "faving" some of the examiners. A broker or a merhant wishes to get an invoice of goods examined and passed at once, and he inti

them have done it and aim do at any time.

It not infrequently happens that invoices arriving here are found to be undervalued, and in this case it is not only the privilege of the examiner, but it is his duty, to savance like entire invoice to the proper figures. In cases of this kind certain examiners have been known to notify the broker having charge of the control of the proper to the proper that the proposed to advance the invoice from goods that they proposed to advance the invoice from ten to diteen per cent, at the same time stating that they are a little short for the time being and would like to borrow \$50 or \$100. This is said with a knowing wink, and the result is that the invoice passes as it was originally entered. Transactions of this kind are susceptible of proof.

was originally entered. Transactions of this kind are susceptible of proof.

Prominent the Freeling in The City.

Prominent republicans in this city have been urging Mr. Darling to resign for the least six months, but have met with no success, the general impression being that Darling is airaid to resign in tace of the Third Avenue Savings Bank expost. The party leaders feet that the Appraiser has become a serious burden and one that they cannot much longer carry. It is claimed that he has lost pretty much all the influence he ever bad, even in his own district. In other words, he is politically dead. His inattention to the duties of his office—an office through which four-fifths of the customs revenue of the United States are assessed—the leaders have feared all along would result in the tormation of rings and chouses in the department, by which the government would be heavily defrauded, and which, some or later, will be exposed to the infinite injury of the party's prospects. Mr. Darling was deaf to all entreaties, however, and seems determined to hold on until Con-

gress sends a committee here to overhaul the concern and show up its rottenness, or until he is peremptorily

To the Editor of the Harald:— Having read of the trial of William A. Darling in your valuable paper 1 think Congress should appoint a imittee to examine the affairs of the Appraisers' Department. If Mr. Darling is guilty of robbing the the Third Avenue Savings Bank, white deny, what will be do in the position he holds as Ap-praiser in robbing the government? There is one man praiser in robbing the government? There is one man the Third Avenue Savings Bank, which he does not deny, what will he do in the position he holds as Appraiser in robbing the government? There is one man that he has appointed there by the name of L. C. Huns, who was removed from the same position for stealing hams, of which he is acquainted. This same Hunt has control of the Nineteenth Assembly district in the interest of Darling, which is in the Congressional district of which he is a candidate for Congress. I believe this man Darling is president of some bank on Third avenue. I think the depositors should be warned of this dangerous man, and have the accounts of the bank examined at once.

A READER OF THE HERALD.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD :-How much one hears about William A. Darling, and yet how little! We are amused with the accounts in the papers of his perjury, his deceptive savings hard-working laborers, male and female, extending to their families and children. All dreadful enough indeed; but why is it so sedulously concealed that this William

A. Darling is a confidential friend of President Grant,
and through and by his patronage represents the
nation itself in the responsible position of United States
Appraiser at the port of New York, for the duties of
which he confesses himself about us incompetent as
Orville's opinion of himself does for an Indian trader?
He delegates the duties of appraiser of all the silk goods
and laces to a superannuated and otherwise incompetent
appointee, for the sole reason that he is
a relative by marriage, and a distant one at that—i
can only explain it thus—"his son's father-in-law."
The results of their own knowledge or experience, affect
our national character itself, for they are reported
throughout the civilized commercial world, and, of
course, are universally condemned. But he finds sing
positions as well for all his relatives at the expense of
the dear public. His son is the custodian of all unclaimed merchandise remaining in the Custom House
stores; another is examiner in the damage department, and there is another relative here and another
there throughout the Custom House and public stores
of this port. Some of your correspondents who may
be better posted will, no doubt, give you fuller details.

#### BOARD OF APPORTIONMENT.

BRIDGES OVER THE HARLEM RIVER. The Board of Estimate and Apportionment met in the Mayor's office at quarter past two o'clock yesterday afternoon, Mayor Wickham in the chair.

Several small transfers in the appropriations for the Department of Public Works were authorized. A transfer of \$200 from the appropriation for the Department of Taxes for 1875 to the same appropriation for

The Mayor said the question of issuing bonds to build bridges over the Harlem River had been before the Board for some time, and he desired that some final action should be taken on the question. He called up the resolution to issue \$100,000 of bonds to build the proposed bridge over the Harlem River, between Fourth and Fifth avenues.

Mr. John J. Crane, President of the Bank of the Re-

public, spoke strongly in favor of better facilities for getting across the Harlem River, and that the bridge near Fifth avenue should be built at once.

Park Commissioner Stebbins said no matter what amount of money the Board might appropriate to-day it could only be used to make examinations and preliminaries toward the erection of the proposed three bridges over the Harlem River, and he was in tavor of an appropriation to enable the Park Commissioners to

an appropriation to enable the Park Commissioners to make these preliminaries. The general government is doing much to improve navigation in this locality and the officials of the general government should be consulted before bridges were placed over the river.

Mr. Lewis G. Morris said he was fully aware of the importance and necessity of better facilities for communication across the Harlem River, but he was opposed to placing low bridges over the river, which would interfere with river commerce, especially in view of the improvements now being imade and in contemplation by the genegal government. He was in favor, however, of some temporary structure across the river.

favor, however, of some temporary structure across the river.

The Comptroller said the question was one of great magnitude, and that it should be fully, carefully and deliberately considered. What they wanted to do here was the inception of what might cost the city \$10,000,000 or \$20,000,000. He thought they should know what was to be done before starting out to do it. Before any money was appropriated or action taken in this matter surveys and soundings should be made and plans decided on, which have not been done. Commercially speaking, the Harlem River, which connects the North and East rivers, was of vast importance, which people have but lately commenced to understand; and anything in connection with this stream—improving its navigation or building bridges over it—was not only a city question but a State and even national one. The commerce of the North River reached away back to and affected the products of the Western States; and the Eastern States are equally interested in it as being the link between the North River and the Sound, by which twenty-five miles of very tedious and difficult navigation can be saved. If bridges are to be built across it—and he was in favor of land communication across it—as an absolute and growing necessity, let them be such as will not interfere with the vast amount of river commerce which is certain at no very distant time to occupy that stream. The magnitude and importance of this question demanded the most carclul and thorough consid-

stream. The magnitude and importance of this question demanded the most careful and thorough consideration, and before any pridge was built across this river by the city it should be known what the national and State governments would do. He was opposed to spending any money on the building of the proposed bridges at present.

The amount named in the resolution was reduced from \$100,000 to \$10,000, which sum is for the Park Department to have soundings, surveys, &c., made. The resolution to issue bends to the amount of \$10,000 was adopted, the Comptroller alone voting in the negative.

The Board then appropriated the following amounts 

THE COMMISSIONERS OF EMIGRA-TION.

A DECISION OF THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT WHICH VIRTUALLY, ABOLISHES THE

Some time since the North German Lloyd Steamship Company paid under protest a large amount of "head oney," as it is called, on a number of passengers brought to these shores by their ships, and subsequently the question of the constitutionality of the law investing the Commissioners of Emigration with the power to collect "bead money" was brought before the Supreme Court of the United States. mouey," it may be well to explain, is a per capita tax levied on the steamship companies for every passenger they bring from Europe, in order to indemnify the State for any expense it may suffer from the sickness State for any expense it may suiter from the sickness or pauperism of such emigrants. In the early steamship days it was customary to exact a bond from the steamship companies for the support or return to Europe of such persons as they had brought here who were unable to support themselves and became a burden upon the people. Through the convoluent channel of legislation, the matter was arranged at Albany so as to limit the liability of the steam-hip owners, and have them pay a per capital and became a burden upon the people. Through the convoluent channel of legislation, the matter was arranged at Albany so as to himit the liability of the steamship owners, and have them pay a per capital on all emigrants, and out of the fund so collected have the State support the indigent and helpless. This 'head money' grew little by little, under different statutes, until treached the round sum of \$2.50. This, of course, made discriminations un avorable to New York, for steamship people would much prefer to send passengers elsewhere than to a port at which they had to pay an onerous tax. The Histatu has long and earnestly protested that the law authorizing the collection of "head money" was unconstitutional, and that it was a matter of commerce and navigation which it was the province of Congress to reguinte. The Histatu also advocated the passage of a law by Congress which would make the tax equal at all ports, and thus do away with the unfair discrimination in favor of other ports.

The decision of the Supreme Court on Monday last in the cases of Henderson and the North German Lloyd against the Commissioners of Emigration, delivered by Mr. Justice Miller, virtually does away with the Emigration Commission and leaves New York a prey to the crying abuses which obtained before the commission was organized. If the advice of the Higgally is a support, and the former is in a yery uncomioriable quandary, owing to the expectation that the old bond system will be revived. In a conversation had with one of the firm of Oelircha & Co., agents of the North German Lloyd, yesterday, a Hisnath reporter learned that the company would much prefer to pay the head money and have their liability end with that then be required to give bonds, which open many possibilities which are now avoided. If the seeison, which has not yet been seen in New York in its integrity, does not declare unconstitutional the right the State has assumed to protect itself by

the bond system against the importation from Europe of pappers, vagrants, criminals and diseased persons, that system will be revived.

An interesting question has been opened by this decision as to whether the landing bureau at Castle Gardon will be abolished, and, in such an event, would the ships be adlowed to land passengers at their several docks. The old system of "baggings smashing" will again be revived, and all sorts of exterious will be practised on unscohisticated entigrants.

Commissioner Maujer, of the Board of Emigration, who was questioned yesterday by a reporter of the Harallo in repard to the effect of this decision, said that the Board was substantially abolished, as the present system was entirely dependent upon the head money for its support.

The Commissioner said that this decision had been expected by the Commissioners, and that they had informally discussed the steps to be taken if it was rendered. A communication will be sent by the Board to the Governor, probably this week, giving a statement of the facts in the case and asking for instructions.

A meeting of the Board will be called to-day or to-morrow.

POLICE DISCIPLINE.

# POLICE DISCIPLINE.

The Board of Police met yesterday, all present but

Commissioner Wheeler.

The complaint against Captain Hedden, of the Thirty-third precinct, charging him with failing to use all legal efforts to solve the mystery of the Ryan tragedy in Broome street in 1873, was dismussed, all

Patrolman Healy, of the Pifteenth precipct, was dismissed from the department

The complaint against Captain McDonnell, of the Eighth precinct, charging him with failure to break taken up, General Smith moving that the complaint be dismissed. Commissioner Erhardt tavored the motion, but Commissioner Voorhis thought that the Captain should be fined, as he regarded the complaint as analogous to those upon which Captains Ulman and Van Dusen were each fined thirty days' pay. The case was finally laid over for future action.

The following names were ordered to be placed on the list of honorable mention for meritorious services in cantorup burstars:—

the ist of honorable mention for meritorious services in captoring burglars:

Roundsman Charles Hughes and Patrolmen Watsen and Sullivan, Eighth precinct, and Patrolman Woodruff, Fifth precinct.

Officer Lamb, of the Fourth precinct, was permitted to receive \$50 and a silver medal from the Life Saving Benevolent, Association of New York for saving a man from drowning at the foot of Dover street, East River. Detectives Holly, Lyon and King, of the Central Office, were permitted to receive \$50 each from C. Waring for the recovery of stolen property.

A pension of \$250 per annum was granted to Annie Nicholson, widow of Sergeant Joseph Nicholson, late of the Thirty-second precinct.

A communication was received from the Board of Aldermen calling the attention of the Commissioners to the ordinance relative to the firing of firearms. Referred to the Superintendent for enforcement.

# A SUGGESTION FROM THE MAYOR.

The special committee consisting of eight members of the Board of Aldermen, who were appointed under Alderman Gross' resolution "to establish a friendly cartel with Philadelphia during the Centennial," waited on Mayor Wickham late vesterday afternoon to ask his on Mayor Wickham late yesterday afternoon to ask his co-operation with the committee in the premises. The Mayor asked the committee what they intended to do, and none of them seemed to have any definite idea on the subject. The Mayor then asked them had they not better wait until Philadelphia had invited them to do something and not thrust themselves into a place where probably they were not wanted. The eight Al-dermen felt snubbed and left.

# FUNERAL OF MR. ARNOLD.

The funeral of the late Aaron Arnold, senior partner of the firm of Arnold, Constable & Co., took place yesterday morning from Trinity chapel, West Twenty-fifth street, where the service for the dead was and gentlemen, friends and relatives of the deceased, Among this congregation were noticed many of our most prominent citizens, all friends of the de either in business relations or in socity. The remains were brought from the Arnold residence, in West Twenty-third street, to the chapel, and as soon as the elegant rosewood casket was placed at the head of the centre nisle it was at once surrounded with beautiful flowers, antuon leaves and heads of grain, in tasteful design, and festooned with wreaths of try. The solemn and impressive service of the Episcopal Church was concucted by the Rev. Dr. Swope, assisted by the Rev. C. F. Oimstead. The pallbearers at the funeral were all gentlemen for many years connected with the business of the firm of which the deceased merchant was the bonored founder, viz.:—Robert Johnston, Hugh Johnston, William Moffatt, S. T. Peters, William Irwin, F. C. Smith, Theodore Lyons and Andrew Campbell. No tuneral sermon or culogy was delivered, in deterence to the well known wish of Mr. Arnold. After the conclusion of the funeral service in the church the remains were conveyed to Greenwood Cemetery, where they were deposited in the family vault. either in business relations or in socity.

# FUNERAL OF MR. PORTER.

A funeral service was held yesterday afternoon in Calvary Baptist church, West Twenty-third street, over the remains of Samuel M. Porter, of the firm of Twenty-third street on Sunday last. The church was well filled, most of those present being the relatives and friends of the deceased. At half-past three o'clock the coffin, which was covered with flowers, was borne up the side aisle, preceded by the Rev. Mr. MacArthur, "I am the resurrection and the life," and was followed by the pallbearers, Messra E. E. Abbott, of this city; M. Bailev, of Jersey City; D. D. Ives, of Brooklyn; W. Irving Adams, of Montclair, N. J.; Thomas Russell, of Montclair, N. J.; Thomas Russell, of Montclair, N. J. and Samuel Insiec of this city. After these came the clerks and other employés of Porter Brothers to the number of about forty. The widow, child, brother and other immediate relatives of the deceased were present. While the procession was moving up the aisle the organ played a requiem, which was followed by the hymn, "Go bury thy sorrow," as a quartet, which was very impressively rendered. The Rev. Mr. MacArthur then read from the Scriptures, after which the air, "I know that my Redeemer livetin," preceded his remarks on the life of the deceased. Mr. MacArthur spoke most Icelingly of the late Mr. Porter's blameless life and the religious sentiments which had guided him from his earliest years in all his dealings with society. Deceased during his infe, up to the time he was seized with his fatal illness, had never known what it was to be sick. But death comes to all of us. Earthly feelings casnot satisfy the longings of the soul which recoils from the idea of annihiation. Death reigned from the days of Adam, but with Christ came the luililment of the dream of the prophets. Christ was life; He triumphed over death and the grave. He entered the realm of death and siruck the scepter from the had of the tyrant. To him who belongs to Christ the grave is robbed of its gloom, and such a one was the deceased. Mr. Porter, said the speaker, took a deep interest in the revival now going on at the Hippodrome, and, even on his deathbod, requested his wife not to allow her devotion to him to interfere with her attendance at those religious meetings, and Mr. MacArthur spoke enlogistically of the Christian character of the deceased, and in his closing prayer recommended the widow and her two children to the fatherly protection of Christ. Then was sung the beau was followed by the palibearers, Messrs, E. E. widow and ber two children to the fatherity protection of Christ. Then wassung the beautiful hymn, "Watching and Warting;" after which the benediction was given and the friends were invited to take a farewell look at the remains. The casket containing the remains was of rosewood, with silver bar handles, and on the lid was the inscription:—

SAMUEL M. PORTER.

Died March 19, 1876, in the lorsy-first year of his age.

The organist at the service was the Rev. G. 8. Piumley, the soprano Miss Maria S. Brainard, formerly of the choir of this church, and the tenor Mr. Thatcher, one of Mr. Sankey's aids at the Hippodrome. The remains lay in the Calvary Baptist church all last uight, under the charge of watchers, and will be this morning conveyed to Waterbury, Conn, for interment.

#### THE LATE SUPERINTENDENT KEN-NEDY.

Yesterday afternoon a committee of citizens went to the house of Mrs. John A. Kennedy, much to that good lady's surprise, and presented to her a tribute of regard for the character and public services of her late husband. The committee consisted of ex-Governor Dix, Peter Cooper, William C. Bryant, General Shaler, General Fremont, Grand Master Thorne, ex-Commisstoner Acton, ex-Mayor Hall, Sinciair Tousey, F. J.
Otterson, Captain Brackett, Le Grand B. Cannon,
Police Commissioner Veorhees, Excise Commissioner
Marshall, Charities Commissioner Stern, Colonel Bundy, George Jones, Superintendent Waling, Inspector
Speight, the hipputan Captam Washburn, the veteran
Thurlow Weed, George S. McWalters (who must have
the credit of originating and working out the presentation), and some other gentlemen. Governor
Dix made the necessary remarks, recalling
the services of Mr. Kennedy, and speaking
warmly of his official and personal character. He
then presented to Mrs. Kennedy a handsome album,
containing a likeness of Mr. Kennedy, toliwed by
2,000 signatures of officers and men who served under
him and the names of the committee of presentation.
Following these were the notices of Mr. Kennedy, immediately alter his death, that appeared in the HERALD
and other journals. Before the business was over a
number of lady friends of Mrs. Kennedy appeared;
among them, the widow of Mayor Havemeyer,
Mcsdames E. Thorne, W. D. Kennedy (the wife of John
A.'s brother), Mrs. J. A. Jackson [a Teanessee lady,
who stood by the old flag at manificate period of her into
on more than one occasion), Mrs. A. D. Cooper, Mrs.
F. J. Otterson, Madamé Errani, Mrs. Dr. Clarkson,
Mrs. B. H. Rogers, Mrs. Van Cott and others. Altogetner it was a successful surprise party and a bleasant
bour for those cencerned. stoner Acton, ex-Mayor Hall, Sinciair Tousey, F. J.

# A TRUSTEE GONE.

Sudden Disappearance of Lawyer William C. Barrett.

HE'SAILS FOR EUROPE

Startling Rumors of His Heavy Defalcations.

What Clients and Friends Have to Say.

Considerable excitement was created in legal circles in this city yesterday by a rumor that Mr. William C. Barrett, the well known lawyer, had absconded. The rumor was also coupled with another to the effect that he had defaulted to a large amount. As Mr. Barrett was known to be a trustee for several important estates the belief seemed to be that he had misappropriated the funds in his nands. How went away, when he started, and to what had become a defaulter, was extent he unknown, and the more investigation was had the more mysterious and remarkable seemed the whole affair. Gleaned from a multiplicity of statements, combining as much fiction as fact, the state of this case seems to be about as follows :-

In the first place it must be said that for the past two or three days rumors have been flying around of a of a well known legal firm who had been intrusted with large numbers of bonds and other sesconded. Fresh from reading of the glar-ing frauds in which many of the high officials of the country have been implicated, the rumor spread a general feeling of insecurity, and people began to ask one another when is this kind of thing going to stop. To many political stealing was no new story, and the columns that have recently been printed giving the particulars of the stealings of the administration officials only confirmed their previous belief; but when they were told that William C. Barrett, late of the firm of Barrett, Redfield & Hill, one of the best known legal concerns in this city, had fled the country, carrying with him the funds which had been intrusted to his care by his clients, their interest was immediately excited. It was a blow that struck directly home; it was not government funds that had been stolen, but the savings in bonds and coupons of nearly a dozen of the leading families of the city.

IN THE CLUBS. pears to have reached the clubs on Sunday, and there the story of the misappropriation of the funds belonging to prominent New York families received a strong backing in a fresh history, in which Mr. William C. Barrett was credited with defrauding some Montreal clients of a large amount. On Monday the news began to spread and the Montreal rumors took a decided appearance of truth when it was positively affirmed that Sir Archibald Galt had come on from Canada about ten days ago in order to make an examination into the for some Montreal parties. Mr Daniel Torrance, of this city, it was reported, was interested with Sir Archibald Galt in this same case, and together they appear to have made some arrangement with Mr. William C. Barrett that secured their claims. By an examination of recent real estate transactions it was found that William C. Barrett and wife conveyed by deed on the 14th of March two blocks of real estate of

By many of his personal friends these stories were received as a tissue of falsehoods, as he was known by them to be a good Christian and a regular attendant of the First Reformed Episcopal church. He is also said to have been very charitable, and is credited with having supported quite a number of old friends that were in distressed circumstances. Yesterday the departure of Mr. Barrett and wife on the Percirc for France was the subject of general conversation, and people appeared to have gained considerable confidence, making their statements about the losses of their friends without the slightest hesitation.

THE EXACT AMOUNT of the loss sustained by his clients did not appear to be known, as although there were plenty of rumors as to the amount, nobody appeared to be able to furnish any definite information on the subject. The clients appear to have suffered mainly in convertible property, such as bonds, stocks and coupons, and there are no charges thus far bearing upon any fraudulent transactions in real estate. It was alleged that Mr. William C. Barrett has been in difficulties for some time past, and the recent decline in the value of real estate has brought matters to a climax and his business affairs in such a muddle that he found himself unable to clear them up. He is also reported to have lost considerable money by the de-cline of property that he purchased in North Carolina, had suffered some heavy losses through the decline in the value of Pacific Mail stock, Of course, in the exstement that the news of his departure created the vere innumerable rumors flying around, placing the defalcations at a very large figure, some even going so far as to say that twelve clients would lose nearly \$400,000. That, however, appears to be an exaggeration of the real condition of affairs, for although the victims themselves cannot give the exact figures, there appears to be comparatively little doubt that his New York clients will lose over \$100,000.

Such was the confidence in the integrity and responsibility of Mr. William C. Barrett that many of his clients, although warned by the rumors of the Montreal business, paid no serious attention to their own affairs, until they became startled by the intelligence that he had really left the country. They then has tened to examine into the condition of his affairs, and from what is asserted found they had suffered a heavy

from what is asserted found they had suffered a heavy loss. There has not yet been time, however, to investigate the entire matter, and some developments may arise that will place matters in a more favorable light.

A VISIT TO THE OFFICE.

A reporter of the HERALD called on Messra Redfield & Hill, at their offices, in No. 20 Nassau street, yesterday. The rooms, once famous for their elegant appointments, were in a dilapidated condition, presenting all the appearance of a place from which the occupants were moving. The furniture was topsy threy, and law books and papers were strewn about the floors of the several apartments. Messra Redfield & Hill were in and received the reporter quite cordially. Mr. Hill, however, who was the spokesman for the firm, was determined to say nothing in relation to Mr. Barrett's rumored disappearance.

"Has Mr. Barrett left New York?" said the reporter.

"I have nothing to say about the affair at all, sir," replied Mr. Hill. "I have not any intention whatever of making any statement touching the rumor; so that you will be merely wasting your time asking questions. Reveafter occasion may arise to warrant our making some sort of a statement. Until it shall, however, I will be silent. It is useless to ask any questions." There was that about Mr. Hill's manner which showed beyond doubt that he was in carneat. Therefore the reporter withdrew.

The irm with which Mr. W. C. Barrett was formerly connected was originally formed ten years ago by his

There was that about Mr. Hill's manner which showed beyond doubt that he was in carnest. Therefore the reporter withdrew.

The firm with which Mr. W. C. Barrett was formerly connected was originally formed ten years ago by his entering into partnership with a Mr. Brinsmade. In time Mr. Brinsmade retired, and Mr. Bedfüeld took his place, and about the same time Judge Barrett also became a partner. When the latter was elected to his present position he left the firm, and was succeeded by Mr. Brill. A few weeks sign the affairs of William C. Barrett were found to be in an insolvent or muddled condition, a result which led to his retiring from the firm. This fact was, however, not known until yesterday, when it was announced by Mesars, Redeeld & Hill. Neither of these gentienner had any connection with the extensive trustee business transacted by Mr. Barrett, and they consequently know nothing about that branch of his law business.

William C. Barrett was led into extensive land speculations in South Carolina through John McKay, formerly a tea broker, who failed in this city. Mr. Barrett's apeculations in South Carolina proved natures. He had a large number of Canadian clients and is supposed to have invested largely in bank securities in Montreal and to have suffered by the heavy bank failure there some months ago. His books show that he was interested in mining transactions in the West and that the stocks proved wurthless.

The friends of Mr. William C. Barrett say that about twive years ago he fell from the City Hall steps, and since then his mental condition has often been such as to render him undit to transact business. His accounts are alleged to be very much muddled. William A. Darling, appraiser of this port and President of the Third Avenue Savings Bank, was an intimate friend and one of the clients of Mr. Barrett.

In connection with the altered frauds committed by

in connection with the alleged frauds committed by Mr. William C. Barrett, who sailed for Europe on Saturday last, the following explains copy of recent real estate transactions in which he was the principal will be of interest. As will be seen the first and third transactions referred to

below, and dated the 14th and 16th inst. respectively, refer to the same property—the deed of the property to Daniel Torrance, of Montreal, being executed on the first mentioned date and the mortgage to secure \$27,000 to Spencer Campbell Thomson, of Edinburgh, being recorded on the 16th inst.

William C. Barrett and wife to Daniel Torrance.—Deed dated March 14, 1876, consideration expressed, \$1, recorded Libre 1,371 of Conveyances, page 161, March 15, 1876, conveya premises south side of Thirty-ninth street, 235 feet west of Lexington aveque, 20x38,9 leet; also premises north side of Thirty-fourth street, 150 feet west of Second avenue, 25x88,9 feet.

William C. Barrett to Nevin W. Butler.—Assignment of mortgage executed by Margaret J. Halpine, widow of Charles G. Halpine, for \$3,399,37, as collateral to secure the payment on demand to said Butler of \$2,500; recorded Libre 1,234 of Mortgages, page 178, March 16, 1876.

William C. Barrett and wife to Spencer Campbell

1876.
William C. Barrett and wife to Spencer Campbell Thomson, of Edinburch, Scotland.—Mortgage dated March 16, 1876, to secure \$27,000, recorded Libre 1,287 of Mortgages, page 303, March 17, 1876, conveys premises south side of Thirty-minth street, 235 feet west of Lexington avenue, 20x98.9 feet, and also north side of Thirty-tourth street, 150 feet west of Second avenue, 25x98.9 feet.

As ALLINGED CONVESSION.

ises south side of Thirty-ninth street, 235 feet west of Lexington avenue, 20x98 9 feet, and also north side of Thirty-lourith street, 150 feet west of Second avenue, 25x98,9 feet.

AN ALLEGED COXVESSION.

The fact of Mr. Barrett's financial embarrassment was known to his most intimate friends several days before he left for Europe, and he confessed to several persons that he had misused the funds intrusted to his cara. It is believed that he told the entire story to the pastor of the First Reformed Episcopal courch, of which Mr. Barrett was a prominent member, for on Sunday prayers were offered during the services for both Mr. and Mrs. Barrett Several members of the congregation were told of the facts by Mrs. Barrett on Friday last. On that day Mrs. Barrett was first told by her husband that they would have to leave the country. Mr. Barrett himself expected to be able to bridge over his affairs, and it was only two weeks ago that he discovered how seriously he was embarrassed. Besides his real estate speculations he was, it is said, carrying a large line of Pacific Mail stock, on which, by the recent decline, he lost a large sum of money. Mr. Barrett was exceedingly generous. His church subscriptions alone during the past year are said to have been \$10,000. He supported a number of persons, and his friends are led to believe that he saved scarcely anything, and that all the money intrusted to him was lost in his speculations.

WILLIAM C. BARKETT is a native of Irchand, and has been a resident of New York for fully forty years. Being admitted to the Barrett soon secured an extensive practice in the civil courts and built up a valuable connection with the old Knickerbocker families. He attended to the interest of his chents and looked after their property, in manj instances having almost exclusive charge of the estatetheld by them. Always esteemed to be a careful man and a ratifity flurardian of the interest country for many of the old families, as is usual in England and Europe. In 1847 Judge Barrett, his nephe

ant reason for the unqualified trust reposed in his integrity by his numerous citents, and the sudden disappearance of their legal adviser seems to be a matter of satonishment to them all.

A visit to Mr. Barrett's house, No. 112 West Thirty, mith stroet, was made last evening by a Herald reporter, who iquad the said dwelling presenting an unilluminated and dreary appearance from the outside. The servant girl who responded to the ring of the bell stated that Mr. and Mrs. Barrett had gone away on Friday isst, but where she did not know. They did not go away at all suddenly, having been expecting to leave the city for some days past. The servant said that they were only to be gone a short time, and would probably return by the wock after next.

AN OLD PRIEND'S STATEMINT.

Knowing that Mr. John Foley was an intimate friend of the gentleman against whose character such grave accusations have been made, a Herald reporter called upon the matter.

Mr. Foley manifested the greatest surprise when informed of the charges that have been made against Mr. Barrett, and at once expressed himself as disbelieving that Mr. Barrett could be guilty of any such act. Mr. Foley gave a short sketch of Mr. Barrett's life in this country, the principal points of which are as follows:—"William C. Barrett was born in Ireland, and emigrated to this country about forty years ago, I have known him for twenty years, and during that time he has been a lawyor, with a large practice. I have heard that he was executor for several estates, but do not know their names. He was one of the Committee of Sevenry, and in and out of it took an active part in city matters and the reform movement. He is an uncic to the present Judge Barrett, of the Supreme Court, and used his influence toward the election of his nephew in 1872. He is married, but has no children. He has always lived in an unostentatious manner, and borne a reputation for the strictest integrity.

He owns a farm of eighty or loo acres near Governos Dix's piace, at West Hampton, L. L., which

fraud he (Mr. Foley) would not know who to trus

WHAT JUDGE BARRETT SAYS.

hereafter.

WHAT JUDGE BARRETT SAYS.

Judge George C. Barrett, of the Supreme Court, is a nephew of Wilham C. Barrett. After the Judge left the bench yesterday in Supreme Court, Circuit, Part 1, where he had been engaged all day in the trial of a cause, a Hexalo representative briefly interviewed him in regard to the rumors concerning his uncle. "I am greatly suprised," said the Judge, "at the recital of the rumors you say are in circulation regarding Mr. Barrett."

"I have come to you," pursued the reposter, "in compliance with my instructions, thinking that you doubtless would know all about the matter."

"I am almost the last person you should come to for any positive information," the Judge replied. "The fact is that some two years ago Mr. Barrett freated me in a manner that I deemed entirely unjust, and we have not spoken to one another since."

"But you must know something about his circumstances," interrupted the reporter, "and whether there is any justifiable basis for the rumors to which I have referred."

"I don't see how it is possible that there can be any

there is any justitable basis for the rumors to which I have referred."

"I don't see how it is possible that there can be any truth in them," responded the Judge. "I know that Mr. Barrett, accompanied by his wife, recently sailed for Europe on the steamer Percire. Quite a party of friends accompanied them to the steamer, and numerous bouquets were presented to Mrs. Barrett in the way of pleasant farewell tokens."

"How came he to leave just at this time?"

"As I understand it, he went solely on account of his health. Some eight years ago he had a stroke of apoplexy, and for some time past he has been threatened with another stroke. Dr. Hallock, his physician, finally told him that in order to ward off such attacks he must give up his business and allow no cares or anxieties to worry him. It was on this advice, I am told, he left for Europe."

"Do you know anything about his trusteeships?"

"I can give you no positive information on that subject."

"Do you know anything about his trusteeships?"
"Il can give you no positive information on that subject."
"Do you know whether he was embarrassed at all?"
"It know that he has been greatly embarrassed financially, the result of losses from strinkages in values."
"You don't think he is a defaulter."
"I can hardly think that possible. Whatever may be his demerits I give him credit for integrity."

As soon as the story became current that Mr. Wilham C. Barrett had sailed for Europe and embezzled the property intrusted to his care by his clients, a Herato reporter was despatched in search of what information he could find upon the subject. There was no definite intelligence to work upon, so he sought the public places of resort, such as the hotels and clubs, and soon learned that there was very little doubt that several isnifies, moving in the first circles of society, would be heavy losers by Harrett's defalcation.

After a rather tedious search the writer finally met one of the cheuts of William C. Barrett, and the following conversation ensued:—

REPORTER—Can you furnish me with some information as to the smount your family has lost through Mr. William C. Barrett's

CLENT—I cannot possibly do that, as we do not know ourselves, and in fact up to Saturday last had not the slightest idea that there was anything wrong in Mr. Barrett's affairs.

REFORTER—How were your suspicions first excited?

CLENT—Trough the story that was reported that Mr. Barrett had misappropriated some funds that were piaced in his bands by some of his Montreal clients,

REPORTER—Can you give me no information whatever as to the amount of the supposed to have embezzled?

CLENT—Noue at all, except that in one instance I

ever as to the amount Mr. Barrett is supposed to have embezzled?

CLEST—None at all, except that in one instance I believe a client will lose about \$40,000. There are eight or ten others that will also suffer considerably. REPORTER—What kind of property was it that Mr Barrett made use of?

CLIENT—Nearly entirely property of a convertible nature, such as bonds, stocks and coupons. I have heard of no instance in which he has tampered with the deeds of real estate intrusted to his keeping. Another gentleman that the reporter met in the Fifth Avenue Hotel stated that he believed Mr. Barrett had made a satisfactory settlement with his Montreal clients.

THE ALCOTT-CLARK COLLISION.

Yesterday forenoon United States Marshal Harlow nd his deputies proceeded to the Erie basin dry dock,